Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Long before.

Dr. A. R. Menon—He is a member of that Bank.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—I too was a member.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—That committee and the report have nothing to do with Land Mortgage Banks.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I say, the position of the Government or its capacity in aiding these institutions will have been enquired into. Banks may be of different character. If, as the Hon'ble Member says, it should be purely a Government concern, that the Government should entirely finance it, the report of the committee may be useful since it had to deal with State-Aided Banks.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—May be State-Aided.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.— That also may be taken into consideration.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.– Is there any scheme established by the Registrar of Co operative Societies? I remember to have seen something done by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—He wrote an article and published it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You may ask the Registrar to examine this question.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I shall see whether something can be done.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If the Government will consider the matter, I don't press the motion.

Dr. A. R. Menon.–Bring all these in a leisure period.

Deputy President.—So you don't press?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No.

The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

5. Agricultural Depots.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar being absent, the following resolution was considered withdrawn:—

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—"*This Council recommends to the Government to start agricultural depots in rural areas, particularly in Panchayat centres*"

6. Standing Finance Committee.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 6 stands in the name of Mr. K. T. Mathew.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I beg to move the following resolution standing in my name: —

"This Council recommends that the Standing Finance Committee shall be so constituted as to have at least two-thirds of its Members elected by the non-official Members of the Legislative Council'.

I have to point out that this Council is constituted having a large proportion of elected Members. Out of the 45 Mem-

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bers of this Council, 30 Members are to be elected by the people and the rest to be nominated by the Government. His Highness was so graciously pleased as to constitute this Council with two-thirds elected Members.

But the Finance Committee is not so satisfactorily constituted. The majority of its Members, instead of being non-officials, are officials. Following the policy laid down by His Highness, there should be a majority of non-officials in the Finance Committee. It is to get this done that I have tabled this motion.

Deputy President.—More money will have to be spent.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Reduce the number of officials.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The Diwan is the President, and there are three official Members and three non-official Members. So one official Member can be removed and in his stead one non-official may be put. There are six seats, and two-thirds of that will be four. Now there are only three Members. I am a Member of the Standing Finance Committee, and I know all that. There are seven Members including the President, and excluding him there are six Members in the Committee. Of course the Diwan is the President of the Legislative Council also, and besides the President I suggest that four non-officials and two officials may be selected.

Deputy President.—The Official Members of the Committee are the Legislative Council Secretary, the Finance Member and the Secretary to the Diwan, and there are three non-officials besides the Diwan.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The Diwan is the ex-officio President. According to the resolution one non-official Member will have to be added and one official Member will have to go out.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—If it is not possible, then increase the number and give two-thirds to the non-officials.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If you want only six, it will be four non-officials and two officials.

Deputy President.—Who seconds the resolution ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it, Sir.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Sir, it is my painful duty to have to oppose a resolution which, to all appearances, only recommends a more thorough democratisation of an existing Committee by increasing the elective element in it. At the very outset, I may, therefore, assure the House that the Government are not inclined to accept the resolution, *at present*, not because they are opposed to non-official majorities in Committees or in Councils, as is obvious, from the constitution of this Chamber itself, but because they regret to find that no useful

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purpose is served by increasing the proportion of the elected non-official Members in the Standing Finance Committee.

The Committee itself is not a statutory body, and its functions are purely advisory. The very object of constituting the Committee seems to be to give the legislature or the bigger body an opportunity of having the financial matters brought before them thoroughly scrutinised through a smaller body beforehand, so that they may be in possession of all the details sufficiently early. As matters stand, a synopsis of the discussion of the Committee is furnished to all the Members for information before voting for or against the grants, etc., moved in the Council. I do not know what greater advantage or usefulness can be secured now by increasing the elective element in the Committee.

In these circumstances, while heartily sympathising with the main object of the resolution, I do not find any necessity to change the constitution of the Committee till the larger question of amending the Regulation itself is taken up when the proper time comes.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is there a proposal for amending the Regulation ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Until that is taken up, not that it is being taken up.

Deputy President.—All matters discussed in the Standing Finance Committee must come up here. There is no voting in the Committee.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Because, for the simple reason that we cannot carry out. We can have voting in the Standing Finance Committee, but we do not press a motion to vote, and we non-officials have studiously avoided voting, because, even if we vote, we cannot get the majority, because there are three officials and three non-officials and the Diwan is the President. What I am saying is that there is no voting is not a correct statement.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—No, Sir. They cannot refuse anything or add anything. It is purely an advisory body, and they can only place their views in the Committee.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That is more or less the same.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the use of our pressing for a vote ? It is better that we do not press. We can get only as much information as is possible, and that is only what we have been doing. Therefore, I give my entire support. It cannot be said that no useful purpose will be served, as pointed out by the Finance Member. On the other hand, a public statement has been made by the Finance Member in his Financial State-

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ment that it has been of very great use. It is in the concluding remarks.

Deputy President.—Whether it is three Members or four Members, it is all the same. They have to bring the same thing.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I was contradicting the statement that it will not be of much use.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—From the large body of thirty non-official Members three are chosen as representatives. They look into the accounts and see whether they are in order. If there is anything wrong, they can only report it to the House. That being the only function of the Committee, it does not matter what their number is. I say that everything that you propose need not be accepted by us. If we think that there is something substantial in it, that you are going to gain by it, and it is reasonable, then of course we may accept it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I would only say that it will be of very great advantage to the Government. It is for this reason, *viz.*, that we want to make the Government *our* Government.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—We are your men.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Therefore, we want you to catch our view-point. The point is, if we thoroughly thresh out the point inside the Committee, and we give our reasons and all the information and knowledge, a good deal of the time of the Council can be saved. We place all our knowledge at their service. Therefore, you will find that there will be no carping, nothing untoward happening in the Committee, where only an informal talk takes place. Therefore, it will be of very great advantage to the Government. Supposing there is a majority of non-officials in the Committee. We shall take an instance. An item in the budget has been thoroughly discussed, and all the non-officials themselves are divided upon the question of retaining or depleting it. Then the Government side with one or the other. If there are half the non-official Members in the Committee, the view of those non-official Members would carry very great weight with this House. When we say that the matter was put to votes and carried, it will carry very much weight with this House, because the time of the House will be very much minimised in discussing such matters. If there was a majority of the elected non-officials in retaining or depleting certain items of expenditure, that will carry great force and strengthen the arm of Government, unlike the present thought exhibited in the Finance Member's reply. Therefore, we are democratising it. We are trying to advance the association of the people with the Government. What is the democratisation

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to the Government? It simply means that the Government has come morally and harmoniously to act in accordance with the view of the representatives of the people. This is the only meaning. Democratisation means Government being carried in the best manner with the greatest amount of approval and consent of the people. That is the idea. Therefore, I think it will be of very great advantage to the Government itself to increase the non-official elements in the Committee, so that the Government will be strengthening their position when once they have that body. Several questions have been asked by Hon'ble Members of this House, "did you press this matter in the Committee, did you examine this in the Committee"? We say 'yes', but we cannot put it to a vote, because they will carry it out by vote.

Deputy President.—Can't you say that it was against your view that it was carried?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Much discussion will also be required. It is for this reason that in all parliamentary institutions these Standing Finance Committees and Public Accounts Committees are appointed for the purpose of saving the public time. The time of the Council is very valuable and precious. If this Committee is constituted, the little knowledge it would be able to give will be of very great use to the Government and to the House.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—How is this Committee constituted in Travancore?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—It is in the same way.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—I can understand what the Hon'ble Member for the Jewish constituency says, if the Committee can alter the proposals in the budget. But we cannot reduce it or alter a certain item of expenditure, even if there is a majority. We have only to bring it to the notice of the bigger House. We cannot reduce it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If the Government are satisfied before the budget is presented by circulation, it can surely deplete a certain item. The procedure now adopted is to print a copy of the budget confidentially for the use of the Members of the Standing Finance Committee. After the Standing Finance Committee's recommendations are made, the Goverament either accept them or reject them.

Then the budget is approved and sent to the Members confidentially in the official form. If, in the Committee, several items are either retained or depleted from the expenditure or receipt side, the Government can correct them. So, to say that we cannot alter a single item or we cannot change an iota of these will be incorrect. Because in this sitting of

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the Standing Finance Committee we had pointed out an additional sum of twenty-five thousand rupees on the receipt side from the ferry and the Stoneware Factory.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—I moved the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is we who moved the Government. The Finance Member did not move. All the Heads of Departments send their budgets to the Secretary to the Diwan by the month of Medam. The budget comes long in advance from the Departmental Heads, when it is compiled by the Comptroller and brought before the Standing Finance Committee. This year we had a net income of Rs. 25,000 which was not in the budget. When we proved it to the Diwan, he was satisfied, and it was added. This was from the Stoneware Factory and the ferry. It was added at our instance.

Deputy President.—That can be done even now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The Hon'ble the Finance Member was opposing but we were obstinate, or nothing would have been done. Suppose we press to vote. All the three official Members will vote and the *status quo* should be maintained by the President. If there is a tie between the officials and the non-officials, he must cast his vote to maintain the *status quo*. There are very great advantages for the proposition. It is immaterial to me whether you accept it or not. But it is material for the working of this Council. In that case you have got very great advantages. The necessity is not felt when we do not want to cut down an expenditure. But when the necessity is keenly felt by us, what can we do ?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—But it is placed before the House.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Supposing the majority of the Standing Finance Committee passes an expenditure to be cut down, the Government will be in possession of the information that the great majority of the non-official opinion is against that expenditure. The Government may very rightly withdraw and won't press that item of expenditure. Naturally the Government is inclined to reject the non-official opinion altogether, and they will not be courting defeat, and if they come into this House for an allotment which has been passed by the majority of the non-official Members in the Standing Finance Committee, it will be certainly passed by this House. It will be wrong to say that that opinion will not carry weight with the non-official Members of this House. Therefore, what is the advantage to the Government? Government will not be defeated in this House. Do you think that it is edifying to defeat the Government at every turn? We don't want to defeat you in this House.

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Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I thought the Member for the Jews would have been the first to advocate the cause of the Government with regard to this resolution, because, as it struck me, he is so very conversant with the conduct of the business and the procedure adopted in the meetings of this Committee. Before entering into the merits of the resolution, let me bring to the notice of the House the functions of this Committee.

"The functions of the Committee shall be (i) to examine the draft annual budget so far as the same is within the cognisance of the Council; (ii) to examine all applications for supplementary grants under votable items of expenditure and (iii) to examine such matters as may be referred to it by the Government. The Committee shall be a purely advisory body."

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Where is the vote?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the meaning of 'examining'? Is there any use of voting?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—The Committee is only an advisory body.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Now the resolution before the House is that two-thirds of the number of Members of the Committee should be non-officials. Well, we have got seven Members.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Six.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—You cannot eliminate the President. The increase in the number of Members as required by the resolution would mean that the non-officials would be either four or five to be more accurate. The question is how will this increase be in any way advantageous to the deliberations of the Committee. That is the point. For the matter of that, it will be seen—and I am sure the Member for the Jews and the Member for Cranganur will bear me out there—that the latitude that is given with regard to the discussion in the Committee is practically unlimited. There is no rule. There is nothing of the sort. The non-official Members are in a position to emphasise the point of that body. The Finance Member never for a moment said that their work was useless. What he said was that the addition might not be useful. We *are* benefited by the discussions in the Standing Finance Committee. But the question is whether this addition will be in any way advantageous. Perhaps a little more time will be taken by the Committee for no great profit. As it is, three Members too understand the point of view very well. They come prepared, and certainly have a lot of time for important points. I do not think that the addition of a Member or two will in any way be advantageous to the Committee.

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മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—അലൈ്വസറി ബോഡിയുടെ അ ത്ഥം പറഞ്ഞതു് ശരിയായില്ല. "ഗവമ്മെണ്ടമെമ്പർമാക്കു നോൺ ഒഫിഷ്യൽസ് അലൈ്വസ് കൊടുക്കുകയാണെന്നു തെറ്റിദ്ധരി ച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് മെമ്പർമാരും നോൺഒഫിഷ്യൽസും ക്ഷ ടി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ അലൈ്വസ് ചെയ്കയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇവർ രണ്ടുകൂട്ടരും ഒന്നാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കൃഷ്ണപിഷാരടി.—അവിടെ പറയുന്നതൊക്കെ എ ഴുതിയെടുത്തു സബ്മിറ്റ് ചെയ്കയാണു പതിവു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ—ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഒരുതീ രുമാനമുണ്ടാകാതെ എങ്ങിനെഅലൈ്വസ് ചെയ്യും? എന്തിനാ ണു ഓഡ് നംബർതന്നെ വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കൃഷ്ണപിഷാരടി.—റെഗുലേഷൻ മാറുമ്പോഴേ എടുത്തു ശരിയാക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലൊ.

ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ആലോചിക്കാമെന്നു, ശരിയാ ക്കാമെന്നല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—മെമ്പർമാരെ കൂട്ടുന്നതു ഉപകാരമാ യിരിക്കും.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—May I know, by way of information, whether any item in the proposed budget has been changed by the examination of the Finance Committee?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Then, the examination results in some benefit is the conclusion. Therefore, if the examining body is a little more large, will it not be more beneficial?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I would like to point out that such matters, which were directly beneficial to the constituencies of the Members concerned, were pointed out by them.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—On that matter we shall not be the judges.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I judge you and we judge ourselves. I understand that certain alterations were made in the constituencies of some of the Members of the Committee. My second point is that the Government's position is not right. You must have a higher and better understanding of that Committee. You say that it is only a purely advisory body and that it has no power. If that be so, why not add one more, since it has no power?

Deputy President.—But there is the question of expenditure.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Can you not reduce the number of Government Members (*hear, hear*)? It can be so constituted, namely, with the Diwan as President and four non-officials and two officials. Then also there will be the majority, and no

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additional expenditure will have to be incurred. The majority does not do any good, nor does it do any harm. I understand from the Hon'ble Member for Muslims that the change does not make any real difference in the working of the Committee. He was also a Member of the Standing Finance Committee. That is what we were saying.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—That is exactly what we also were saying. One more or one less does not make any difference.

Deputy President.—Shall I put it to votes?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not press.

The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

7. Azhikode–Kara—Kothaparambu Road.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—ഇതവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ എന്റെ ചുമതലനിർവ്വഹിക്കണമെന്നേയുള്ളൂ. ഫലസിദ്ധിയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യം ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യമാണ്. അതിൽതന്നെ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളവ മാത്രമെ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ലോകമലേശ്വരം ഡ്രൈനേജ്കനാലിനെ അലോട്ട്ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ ഈ ആവശ്യത്തിനുപയോഗിച്ചാൽ നന്നു. അവിടെയാണെങ്കിൽ വാഹനസൗകര്യമില്ല. ചുട്ടുപഴുത്ത മണലിൽ കൂടി നടക്കുവാനും സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ഫ്ലഡ്-ൽ ഇതിനൊരു സംഖ്യയുണ്ട്. ബാക്കിവേണ്ടത് ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയരും മറ്റും ആലോചിച്ചു നോക്കിയാൽ കൊള്ളാം. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ പണമില്ലെന്നുപറയുമെന്നു എനിക്കറിയാം. അതിനുള്ള നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗവും എന്റെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു ഒന്നുകിൽ അവകാശമുള്ളവകകൊടുക്കുക. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മുൻസിപ്പാലിറ്റിനു കൊടുക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഒരു കോൺട്രിബ്യൂഷൻ കൊടുക്കുക. അതുമില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒരു ലോൺ എങ്കിലും കൊടുക്കുക. ഇതിലേതെങ്കിലും ഒന്നു ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണപേക്ഷ. ഞാൻ എന്റെ കർത്തവ്യം നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലം അറിയുവാനാണ് ഈ പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു വേണ്ടതു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുമെന്നു എനിക്കുവിശ്വാസമില്ല. ഇനി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഇഷ്ടംപോലെ ചെയ്യുകയെന്നുമാത്രം പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.—

"അഴിക്കോട്-കാര-കോതപറമ്പ് റോഡ് കല്ലിട്ടതല്ലിതാദ്ദേഹത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ താലൂക്കിലേയും എടവിലങ്ങു വില്ലേജിലേയും നിവാസികൾക്കുള്ള അസഹനീയങ്ങളായ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും പ്രസ്തുതറോഡിന്റെ പണി ഫ്ലഡ്-മാണ്ടിൽതന്നെ ആരംഭിച്ചുകഴിയും വേഗത്തിൽ പൂർത്തിയാക്കി പൊതുജനസങ്കടത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കണമെന്നു ഈ കൌൺസിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുകയുംചെയ്യുന്നു."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly